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although strongly in favor of the deportation of criminals, bitterly assails those executive powers on the part of officials which are considered, both in England and in this country, to be necessary to render such acts workable as to aliens generally; and he advocates cumbersome judicial machinery which would go far to nullify the advantages of the law.

The book as a whole is a comprehensive and masterly statement of the aliens' side of the question.

PREScott F. HALL.

Les Naissances en France. La Situation, Ses Conséquences, Ses Causes. Existe-t-il des Rèmedes? By RAOUl DE FELICE.
(Paris: Librairie Hachette et Cie. 1910. Pp. 370.)

The value of the book lies mainly in its survey of the numerous discussions of the French birth-rate, many of them ephemeral or inaccessible to foreign students. The thought is balanced and sane, the style lucid and dignified, penetrated with a profound conviction that his country's fate is trembling in the balance. For his purposes and for the foreign reader the abundance of quotations which has been criticised in France is a merit, because in a problem of this description it is not what any one man thinks but rather the general trend of public opinion and discussion that counts.

An epitome of the concluding chapter will give the best taste of its quality: The controlling influence leading to the decline of the French birth-rate is human choice. The main motive for that choice is prudence and the desire for an easy life for themselves and for their children, a desire strengthened by many features of the French economic and fiscal system. Formerly the quality pre-eminently French was courage, *l'audace*. This quality must be revived by teaching the masculine joys of responsibility freely accepted.

All remedies proposed by the writer may be grouped under one head: the father of a large family should receive from society, as he does not now, compensation, economic and moral, for his labor in rearing his children. The legality and wisdom of a special tax on bachelors are doubtful, but, the ability to pay being an important element, fathers of families should be taxed more lightly than bachelors. The father of an illegitimate child should be compelled to provide for its support, and if the father cannot be determined perhaps those who might have been the father should

be compelled to pay the charges jointly. This would be a deterrent to irregular relations and to the procurement of abortion. The legal formalities now required for marriage should be reduced and a written promise to marry signed before an officer should furnish a basis for a legal claim if a birth follows, thus diminishing the danger and the evil of seduction under promise of marriage.

Employers might be induced to prefer married employees by a modified pension system, whereby the contributions of employer and of employee decrease with the increase in the number of children in the employee's family, the difference apparently to be made up by increased payments from the state. Import duties should be reduced; octroi duties and duties on certain prime necessities abandoned. An income tax graded in amount partly according to the number of children should make up the loss in revenue. The tax on tenement houses might be less as the average number of persons to a family in it was greater. The pay of public employees might be graded partly according to the number of children. The demand of such employees for pay enough to maintain a family might be granted for all who really have families, without ruinous increase of the budget, and might influence private employers to imitation. The amount of an old-age pension should depend in part upon the number of children reared, on the theory that the fewer the children, the better his opportunities for saving.

Regarding inheritance laws it is proposed that the estate of a decedent leaving children should be divided into three parts: (1) a legal reserve beyond the testator's control and going to the children if there are any; (2) a part subject to the decedent's will and to go to the children or to third persons as he may designate; (3) a part subject to the decedent's will but to go to some public object which he may designate. If there were four or more children the last part would fall to zero and as the number of children was less the proportion of the estate falling under (3) would increase and that falling under (2) would decrease, (1) being in all cases one half of the estate.

Pending such change in the laws the efforts of individuals may accomplish something. Heads of workmen's families might co-operate with one another and with their employers in the effort to determine where new workers are needed, direct their children towards such openings and perhaps pay apprenticeship charges. Domestic industries, aided by small motors, might revive in the country districts and increase the value of children in the home.

The dread of child-bearing might be diminished by providing a rest after it of some weeks with continuance of wages or an equivalent from the state or from some insurance fund. Maternity hospitals and societies for helping nursing mothers should be increased. But the main thing is to reëstablish equality, real equality, in the economic burdens of bachelors and of fathers of families.

The question discussed is of great and growing importance not only for France but for western Europe and the United States, but in each country it takes a slightly different form. In the United States argument has centered largely about the relative increase of the old native stock and of the immigrants of various classes. In England it has turned upon the rates of increase of different social and economic groups and the displacement of the middle class by less valuable strains. Neither of these phases of the problem is emphasized in the present work, the sombre tone of which perhaps merely anticipates by a few decades that of similar discussions in other countries when their conditions approach that of France. Nor does the writer challenge or discuss the assumption that an increasing population is desirable, an assumption hardly open to doubt in an era of war or preparation for war and for a country hemmed in by dangers, but far from necessary if other ways could be devised for settling international controversies.

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Author was a royal commissioner of the commonwealth of Austria in 1907, and of the state of New South Wales in 1903.

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To be reviewed.

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To be reviewed.